

Application No. 10/751,370
Response Dated February 14, 2006
Reply to Office Action of January 17, 2006

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-4, 7-9, 17 and 21-41 were pending, and claims 5, 6, 10-16 and 18-20 were canceled in the present application before the amendment as set forth above. By this Amendment, claims 21-29 are canceled.

The January 17, 2006 Office Action rejected claims 21-29 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Furthermore, claims 21-27 and 29 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Pat. No. 6,626,442 to Pahis (hereinafter "Pahis"). Additionally, claim 28 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Pahis in view of U.S. Pat. No. 4,411,442 to Rills.

However, the Primary Examiner indicated that "claims 1-4, 7-15, 17 and 30-41 are allowed." A phone call was placed to the Primary Examiner on February 14, 2006 regarding the status of claims 10-15, which were canceled in response to a restriction requirement. The Primary Examiner stated that claims 10-15 remained canceled and allowance of claims 10-15 was a typo.

Applicant appreciates the Primary Examiner's careful review of the application, allowance of claims 1-4, 7-9, 17 and 30-41.

In response, as set forth above, without acquiescing in the propriety of the Examiner's rejections and to facilitate the prosecution of the current application, claims 21-29 have been canceled, which makes the Examiner's rejections under 35 U.S.C. §112, 102(b) and 103(a) to claims 21-29 moot. Applicant reserves every right in canceled claims 21-29 to file continuation applications.

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It is now believed that the application is in condition for allowance and such allowance is respectfully requested.

Applicant respectfully submits that the foregoing Amendment and Response place this application in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes that there are any issues that can be resolved by a telephone conference, or that there are any informalities that can be corrected by an Examiner's amendment, please call the undersigned at 404.495.3678.

Respectfully submitted,

MORRIS, MANNING & MARTIN, LLP



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Tim Tingkang Xia
Attorney for Applicant on the Record
Reg. No. 45,242

Morris, Manning & Martin, L.L.P.
1600 Atlanta Financial Center
3343 Peachtree Road, N.E.
Atlanta, Georgia 30326
404-495-3678 Direct
404-233-7000 Main
Customer No. 24728